

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 August 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
3 AUGUST 1967

1. Soviet Union

The dramatic airlift of military equipment to the Arab States following the June debacle has apparently served Moscow's initial purposes. Now, the Russians appear much less generous.

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Moscow probably has not yet decided how far it will go. It faces an enormous job if it is even to get Arab military inventories back to pre-war levels. We calculate this would require 80 more shiploads.

2. Syria

We are hearing rumblings of dissatisfaction inside Syria and see signs that some new realignment in the leadership may be under way. There is little chance, however, for any basic change in the radical coloration of the government or in its close alignment with Moscow.

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3. Arab States

Egypt has made one positive contribution so far in the foreign ministers' conference in Khartoum. Nasir has called for renewal of the 1965 Jidda Agreement with Saudi Arabia for an end to the war in Yemen. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] there is no way to tell now whether he is prepared to follow through. It could be merely a gesture to steal the spotlight from the more radical states. 50X1

4. Libya

King Idris is in no hurry for the evacuation of the US Wheelus base; he would be quite happy if negotiations drag on indefinitely. The King's pro-Nasir enemies, however, have zeroed in on the base as a focal point in their dissident campaign. They exploded some bombs against the perimeter wall last week.

At the moment, propaganda pressures from Cairo on the base issue are rather low. If they increase, so will the anti-base campaign in Libya--and the internal threat to the King.

5. South Vietnam

The presidential campaign opens officially today and the expected pre-election stirrings of the militant Buddhists are beginning.

Various meetings have been held [redacted] as the militants try to get themselves organized to oppose Thieu and Ky. We anticipate some noise, but we doubt it will get much louder than thunder on the horizon as the militants still have not recovered from the drubbing they took last year. 50X1

Tam Chau and the moderate Buddhists are quietly supporting the Thieu-Ky ticket.

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6. Greece

King Constantine told a US official last weekend that he has signed a government reorganization order giving considerable new power to coup leader Colonel George Papadopoulos. As "chief of staff" of the cabinet, the colonel will pass on almost all government actions. The King admitted that this will give Papadopoulos "much more power" than the prime minister.

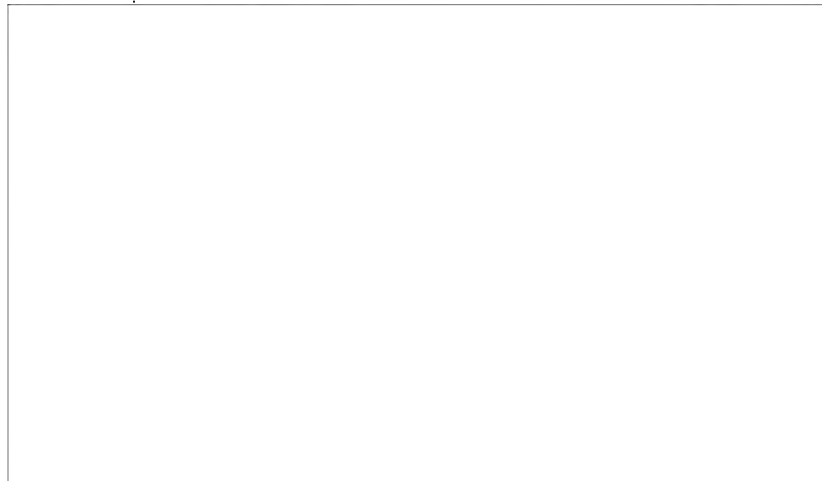
Papadopoulos, who himself drafted the reorganization plan, has been in the forefront of those military leaders anxious to speed up the "revolution." As for the King, some observers feel he has now all but accepted a second fiddle role in the government.

7. Peru

The constitutional crisis continues, but President Belaunde and his political opponents are now quietly discussing compromise arrangements that might permit the installation of Congress.

8. Cuba

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